

Electronic Aktivität
Brought to you by
www.keepwerking.co.uk

Remember to visit
Aktivität on line
www.aktivitaet-fanzine.com



AKTIVITÄT

KRAFTWERK FANZINE

This document contains the scanned pages of one of the Kraftwerk Aktivität Fanzines or complimentary publications that were produced from 1992 through to 1998.

During this time 10 Fanzines were published along with various update issues and other complimentary publications.

The scans have only been altered for clarity, with the exception of addresses and phone numbers that have now been blocked out. So please note that all errors and miss-information are as they appeared at the time of publication. Later issues tried to address the earlier problems as the production team put more stringent editorial practices in place.

AKTIVITÄT UPDATE

SOME UNOFFICIAL NEWS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF KRAFTWERK AND RELATED ACTS

NOVEMBER 1995

Greetings,

The primary reason for this mail out is to alert our UK readers to the fact that the forthcoming BBC Radio 1FM hour long Kraftwerk documentary has been rescheduled. The programme will now be broadcast on Sunday the 3rd of December, 7.00-8.00 pm. and not the 10th of December as originally scheduled. So, please make a note of this if you are planning on listening to this programme. Additionally, the programme will also feature exclusive interview material with Wolfgang Flür, done especially for this programme.

Since the above rescheduling necessitated this mailout, it seemed an ideal opportunity to make some progress with the idea of a survey of Aktivität readers. To this end, please find enclosed on a separate sheet the 1995 Aktivität Readers Survey. If a good response is forthcoming the results shall appear in issue 8 of the fanzine, whenever it may appear.

Since issue 7 appeared in September there has been little further news to report on Kraftwerk. I have had the chance to listen to the American 'Trancewerk Express Vol. 1' tribute CD (courtesy of Gilles Garneau, thanks Gilles) and can't in all honesty say that I would recommend it. The majority of the tracks are rather monotonous and uninspired techno rehashes; the sounds also tend to be rather run of the mill. In line with what reviews of it I have read, I would have to agree with them in giving it the thumbs down.

The other recent 'tribute' release of note is by the mysterious American band The Electroids, with their 'homage' to Kraftwerk, 'Electroworld', Warp Records WARPCD35. This release has received coverage from the UK music press, suggesting that the work is actually by underground electro outfit Drexciya, though this has been refuted. All of the material is original, there are no direct Kraftwerk cover versions as such. To my ears at least, the album is more of a tribute to early 80's synth pop in general rather than Kraftwerk. If you are a fan of, say John Foxx, Cabaret Voltaire YMO even, dare I say it, New Musik, I'm sure that sounds and melodies and rhythms will have a certain touch of déjà vu to them. Certainly there are Kraftwerk influences all over the place, some of the sounds are very reminiscent of the 'Man Machine' era and the Kraftwerkian rhythms are excellent. Authentic vocoded vocals are also much in abundance and certainly shame some of the dreadful examples of such that pop up on the 'Trancewerk Express Vol. 1' CD. All in all, I found it a mixed-bag; much of it I enjoyed, but then I'm someone who grew up to the music of Gary Numan, John Foxx et al and pottering about with early Casio keyboards, so the sounds and such had a certain nostalgic appeal; I could easily see many younger Kraftwerk fans merely writing off this CD as sounding very dated indeed. It may be argued that this is the whole point, even down to using very 'Computer World' lo-tech

inspired artwork too, but maybe more could be expected; the CD falls into aimless and highly annoying mode in a couple of tracks ('Midnight Drive', 'Thermo Science'). Where its good ('Perpetual Motion', 'Japanese Electronics', 'Mystery World', 'Silicon Valley') it's highly recommended, the old analogue gear working well. All in all, I wouldn't recommend rushing out to buy it; definitely a case of an EP or the like would have been more satisfying than a whole album's worth. But I would definitely recommend over the 'Trancewerk Express Vol. 1' CD any day of the week.

KINETIK

Following on from the article in issue 7 about Kinetik, the band have recently performed live and have plans afoot for a live CD release of said appearance...

KINETIK LIVE - THE BURNING ISSUE by Colin Jordan

On 4th November 1995, KINETIK participated in an event organised to highlight the concerns over National Power's plans to burn orimulsion fuel at Pembroke Power Station, West Wales, and the serious health problems which would result if the proposed burning went ahead. KINETIK felt that this event would be an ideal opportunity to premiere some of the original material with its strong local industrial influences that the band has been working on since its last live performance at the 1994 Unofficial Kraftwerk /Elektric Music Convention.

A live recording was made by the band during the performance. Upon listening to the tape, it soon became apparent that the concert was worthy of a CD release - there was so much positive 'KINETIK' energy in the music! For the concert, KINETIK took the opportunity to greatly expand and re-arrange the tracks which had appeared on the 'Kinetik Energy' EP demo earlier this year. Track listings and timings for the live CD are as follows;

1. KINETIK INTRO (0.38), 2. DANCE MACHINE (6.40), 3. KINETIK ENERGY (8.38), 4. PIPELINE (5.04), 5. ORIMULSION (3.29), 6. GENERATION (6.17), 7. NETWORKING (9.56), 8. REFINED (10.26)

The running time for the CD totals at over 51 minutes and is a strictly limited pressing of only 50 copies which will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. The price is £12.50 per CD + £1.00 P&P in the UK (£1.50 abroad). Included will be a voucher for £1.00 off KINETIK's first studio album, 'REFINED', which is still scheduled for release at the end of the year.

Cheques/PO's etc. should be made payable to C. Jordan and sent to;
KINETIK,

*The current issue of Aktivität is issues number 7
The most recent Update sheet previous to this one is July/August 95*

Ian Calder,